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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

EAP FOR DAVID RODRIGUEZ, NIRAV PATEL, AND
KEVIN SHEIVES. S/P FOR JAMES GREEN.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ECIN](#) [PREL](#) [XC](#) [XE](#) [XU](#) [ASEAN](#) [APECO](#) [ARF](#) [IN](#)
SUBJECT: INDIA: ENGAGING POSTS ON THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON
ASIA-PACIFIC MULTILATERALISM

REF: STATE 2965

(SBU) We discussed reftel points regarding the USG role in Asia-Pacific regional institutions during a January 21 conversation with Gaurangalal Das, Director for East Asian Affairs at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. Das expressed overall appreciation for the approach enunciated in the Secretary's January 12 speech, and he contrasted the new approach favorably with that taken by the previous U.S. administration. He stated that India views Asia-Pacific multilateral fora primarily as means to promote and increase trade and investment links. When asked about the Secretary's speech reference to a possible trilateral dialogue between India, Japan and the U.S., Das said he believed the matter of a formal dialogue had already been discussed without conclusive outcome among senior officials of the three governments.
ROEMER